INTO THE TEXT OR OUT OF THE TEXT?

"Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth."—2 Tim. 2:15 (NASB '95)

Valley Grace Brethren Church of Armagh, PA

May 11th, AD 2025

The Lord's Day

The Eleventh Day of May, *in the Year of our Lord* 2025

- One Is Your Master and All Ye Are Brethren -

Welcome to the worship services of Valley Grace Brethren Church!

Sunday School—9:30 AM.

Our studies in the Medieval Christianity wrap-up with a survey of the dark history of the Papacy, relating it to recent current events.

Morning Worship—9:30 AM.

Call to Worship:* *"O, How I Love Jesus"* (#281; Chorus only).

Invocation.*

Hymn: *"The God be the Glory"* (#64).

Prayer for Tithes & Offerings.

Scripture Reading: Matt. 5:27-30.

Prayer, Praises, & Testimony.

Special Music: Peggy Reese (*"For Those Tears I Died."*)

Announcemnts.

Hymn: *"Sunshine in my Soul"* (#233).

Dismissal of Youth for Children's Church.

Message: *"Hermeneutics, Pt. 5: Rightly Handling the Word."*

Closing Hymn:* *"'Tis so Sweet to Trust in Jesus"* (#250).

Benediction.*

Stewardship a way of life

Week of May 4 – May 10

Sunday School—8; Morning Worship—15;
Midweek—4; Weekly Offering—$665.46;
Video (*"The Ultimate Weapon of Mass Destruction"*)—120 views.

Cover Art: *"Eisegesis: Dishonoring the Word"* by Pastor Terry L. Reese

Brethren Heritage & Beliefs Class: Monday, 6:30 PM.

Session 4: "The Origins of the GRACE Brethren."

WHAT motivated Alexander Mack to form the Brethren Church in 1708? **WHY** did the Grace Brethren split from the Ashland Brethren in 1939? **WHAT** is the difference between the Church of the Brethren and the Grace Brethren, theologically? **WHAT** important issues provoked the Grace Brethren Church to split in 1992 into Conservative vs. Charis Fellowships? These matters provide an important introduction as to why Grace Brethren People believe the things they believe.

Midweek Prayer & Bible Study: Thursday, 6:30PM.

Our Midweek Bible Study: Daniel, chapter 6. Eternity alone will reveal how many lives have been blessed through the means of God's People gathering together in humble little Prayer Circles like our own, as we corporately beseech the Throne of our great and omnipotent God, praying in intercession for others!

The 2025 **CONSERVATIVE ALLEGHENY DISTRICT CONFERENCE** will be held at the **Reading GBC** (Stoystown) on **Sat., May 17**. The theme is "***REFLECTIONS OF THE SON***," and will feature great messages from **Pastors Larry Weigle** (District Moderator) and **Chris Knight** (District Vice Moderator), as well as **Men's and Ladies' breakout sessions**. Registration and morning Refreshments will be at **9:00AM**; the First Session will be at **9:30AM**. The business session will be from approx. **2 to 3 PM**. **LUNCH IS PROVIDED!** ***EVERYONE is invited****; this is a great opportunity to extend our fellowship unto area Brethren of like-faith!*

GOD CALLS US TO EXEGESIS, NOT EISEGESIS!

(Pastor Terry L. Reese; 5/9/25)

Exegesis is ascertaining the meaning *"**out of the text**"* based upon what is ACTUALLY THERE (i.e., *"What does God's Word truly SAY?"*). ***Eisegesis***, however, is reading ***"into the text"*** what we DESIRE or ASSUME to be there! But many people are guided by *false authority*, founded upon such things as **rationalism** *("I think…")*, **emotional-mysticism** *("I feel…)*, **popular wisdom** *("The common consensus says…")*, or **man-made tradition** *("My church has always…")*—as opposed to embracing **Sola Scriptura** (i.e., the Bible ALONE is our Authority). Thus, they import their preconceived ideas, feelings, and traditions INTO the Scripture.

YES! Some doctrines are hard, tough, disquieting**—**and at odds with the Spirit of the Present Evil Age (Gal. 1:4). **For example**…

HELL IS ETERNAL CONCIOUS TORMENT! (Matt. 25:46)

THE MAN IS THE HEAD OF THE FAMILY! (Eph. 5:22-23)

FEMALE PASTORS ARE FORBIDDEN! (1Tim. 2:12)

SALVATION IS ONLY IN CHRIST AND THE UNEVANGELIZED HEATHEN ARE LOST! (John 14:6, Acts 4:12)

DISCIPLESHIP COSTS MUCH!!! (Matt. 16:24, Luke 14:28)

SOMETIMES OUR SUFFERING IS GOD'S WILL! (2 Cor. 12:9)

MIRACULOUS SIGN-GIFTS HAVE CEASED. (1Cor. 13:8)

GOD IS SOVEREIGN OVER ALL THINGS. (Amos 3:6, Ps. 115:3)

NATURAL MAN IS IN A STATE OF TOTAL DEPRAVITY AND CANNOT SAVE HIMSELF. (1Cor. 2:14, Eph. 2:1-3, Rom. 3:10-11)

GOD IS EFFECTIVE IN DRAWING HIS CHOSEN-ELECT PEOPLE UNTO SALVATION! (John 1:13; 6:37, 44, 55; Eph. 1:29)

PREDESTINATION IS REAL! (Rom. 8:29; 9:15-16; Eph. 1:4-5)

ETERNAL SECURITY IS TRUE! (Eph. 4:30, John 3:16, Phil. 1:6)

NO EASY DIVORCE & REMARRIAGE! (Mark 10:11-12; Rom. 7:2-3)

ALCOHOL IS NOT FOR CHRISTIANS! (Prv. 23:31, 31:4; Eph. 5:18)

All of the above are **hard & controversial truths!** But Christians often desire the smooth & easy path—and thus demand that their Pastor violate his conscience and follow them in sin, or else reduce the content of his preaching—even though this may bring the fearful judgment of God upon the Pastor & his family (James 4:17)!